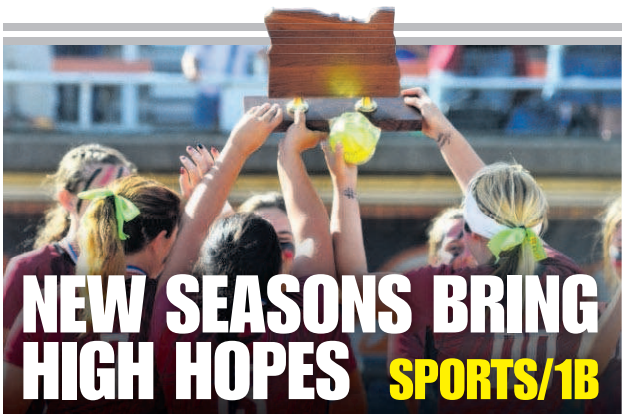




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HERMISTON EOTEC delay pushes into 2017 fair week

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center's project manager will have to find a way to cut at least nine days off the current schedule if construction is going to be finished in time to host the Umatilla County Fair in 2017.

A construction schedule presented Friday by Rob Drier of Frew Development Group shows the first event date for the rodeo arena and barns as Thursday, Aug. 17. But fair director Don Slone told the *East Oregonian* he was working under the impression — and with contracts that noted — the date of the 2017 fair as Aug. 8-12.

Drier laid out a timeline for completion of design, bid, contracts and construction for each remaining component of the EOTEC project based on their current status. It marked July 5, 2017, for the end of construction on the livestock barns, July 21 as the completion date for the rodeo arena, and Aug. 9 for completion of landscaping.

Board members pointed out to Drier that the fair and rodeo had never started as late as Aug. 17.

"I understand we're incredibly short and now we're shorter," board member Ed Brookshier said. "Can we make it work?"

At the board's request Drier said he would look at ways to tighten up the schedule to make sure everything is done in time. He also said he would add site electrical work to the schedule, which board member Dan Dorran pointed out was not included but was critical to the project.

In October, after the EOTEC board agreed that the project would not be ready in time for the 2016 fair and rodeo, Frew Development Group proposed in its monthly report that "all

See EOTEC/14A

ARLINGTON DOCK DUMPED

Port project interfered with tribal fishery



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A crane derrick from HMC Construction of Vancouver, Wash. lifts a pile out of the river bed along the Columbia River at the proposed Port of Arlington site east of Arlington.

**"We have a number
of oral histories taken
of tribal members who
have continuously fished
at Willow Creek. The
pilings would block the
ability to put out nets
there to catch fish."**

— **Chuck Sams**, CTUIR spokesman

Initially approved by federal government a decade ago

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The Port of Arlington's ill-fated barge dock on the Columbia River was supposed to steer economic development into rural Gilliam County — population 1,871.

Instead, the project received a clumsy go-ahead from the federal government before it was later determined to interfere with a traditional tribal fishing site. Permission

to build was awkwardly revoked, leading to a series of appeals that dragged on for years.

The saga came to an end on Wednesday, as workers finished removing 42 pilings out of the river, where the dock was initially OK'd nearly a decade ago.

"It's really quite devastating," said Peter Mitchell, the port's general manager. "This is a very bitter pill the community is swallowing here."

What's more, the port is left holding the tab for \$2 million worth of construction and engineering work.

"I don't think we're ever going to be made whole on this project," Mitchell said.

The port originally wanted a river dock to import trash from Portland and Seattle — and perhaps even Hawaii — that would end

See DOCK/14A

Discrimination complaints rise in Umatilla County

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Discrimination and other civil rights complaints against Umatilla County workplaces and housing spiked in recent years, reaching 46 in 2015.

Seven of the complaints in 2015 came from employees of one diner, the most for any business or agency in the county last year.

Ron Jones opened Ron's Pizza Place in 1987 in Milton-Freewater. But after 27 years, he said, it was time to try something else. He sold the establishment to Douglas and Becky Reynolds, who own and operate The LookOut RV Park on Pendleton's Airport Hill. The couple in May 2014 set up the limited liability company D-3B's to own the diner, according to information from the state.

The couple, though, filed for bankruptcy seven months later on Dec. 4,

2014.

Three months after that, employees of the pizzeria filed discrimination complaints with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, the state agency responsible for protecting employee rights and ensuring that access to housing and accommodation is free from discrimination.

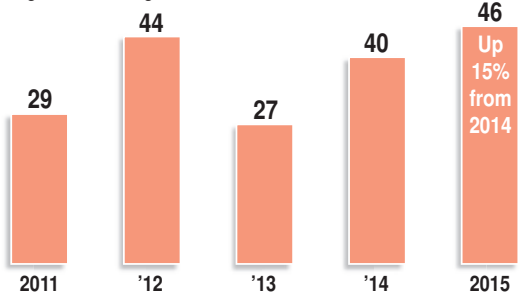
The first two complaints came March 2, 2015. One alleged disability and the other alleged age discrimination. Another employee by mid-March alleged sexual harassment and a fourth brought another disability complaint.

Two more employees filed complaints April 2, one for sexual harassment and one for sexual discrimination. The seventh and last complaint was for whistle-blowing and arrived to BOLI on April 20 from the woman who filed the first sexual harassment claim.

See BOLI/14A

Civil rights complaints in Umatilla County, 2011-15

There have been 186 complaints from 163 people or organizations against approximately 100 employers, housing providers or government agencies:



Top five employers/organizations named, 2011-15	
Rank/organization	Complaints
1. Oregon Department of Corrections	13
2. Keystone RV Inc., Pendleton	8
3. Shearer's Foods, Hermiston	8
4. D-3B's (Ron's Place Pizza, Milton-Freewater)	7
(All incidents reported in spring of 2015)	
5. River Point Farms, Inc., Hermiston	6

Top five primary basis for complaints, 2011-15	
1. Disability	55
2. Age discrimination	24
3. Injured worker	17
4. Sex discrimination	16
5. Whistleblowing	15
5. (tie) Race/color	15

Source: Oregon
Bureau of Labor
and Industries
Phil Wright and
Alan Kenaga/
EO Media Group

OSP moved fatal traffic stop to avoid Sheriff Palmer

By **AMANDA PEACHER**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

During an interview with investigators about the shooting death of Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, an OSP officer said officials were originally considering a location in Grant County for the traffic stop operation, a newly released investigation report shows.

Had the stop occurred in Grant County, the group would have been closer to Sheriff Glenn Palmer, and the entire interaction would have taken place within Palmer's jurisdiction. And that's exactly why law enforcement opted not to make the traffic stop within Grant County boundaries, said the OSP officer, identified in the documents as "Officer No. 1."

Law enforcement designed the Jan. 26 stop to

See OSP/14A



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